

Cold Cold Heart

Hank Williams

I tried so hard my dear to show that you're my every dream.
Yet you're afraid each thing I do is just some evil scheme.
A memory from your lonesome past keeps us so far apart.
Why can't I free your doubtful mind and melt your cold cold heart?

Another love before my time made your heart sad and blue.
And so my heart is paying now for things I didn't do.
In anger unkind words are said that make the teardrops start.
Why can't I free your doubtful mind, and melt your cold cold heart?

You'll never know how much it hurts to see you sit and cry.
You know you need and want my love, yet you're afraid to try.
Why do you run and hide from life, to try it just ain't smart.
Why can't I free your doubtful mind and melt your cold cold heart?

There was a time when I believed that you belonged to me.
But now I know your heart is shackled to a memory.
The more I learn to care for you, the more we drift apart.
Why can't I free your doubtful mind and melt your cold cold heart?

This blues ballad is both a classic of honky-tonk and an entry in the Great American Songbook. Williams adapted the melody for the song from T. Texas Tyler's 1945 recording of "You'll Still Be in My Heart," written by Ted West in 1943.

Country music historian Colin Escott has stated that Williams was moved to write the song after visiting his wife Audrey in the hospital. She was suffering from an infection brought on by an abortion she had carried out at their home unbeknownst to Hank. Escott also speculates that Audrey, who carried on extramarital affairs as Hank did on the road, may have suspected the baby was not her husband's.

According to bandleader Pappy Neil McCormick, Hank went to the hospital and bent down to kiss Audrey, but she wouldn't let him. "You sorry son of a bitch," she is supposed to have said, "it was you that caused me to suffer like this." Hank went home and told the children's governess, Miss Ragland, that Audrey had a 'cold, cold heart,' and then, as so often in the past, realized the bitterness in his heart held commercial promise." The song would also become a pop hit for Tony Bennett, paving the way for country songs to make inroads into the lucrative pop market.